

IRISH LAND ACT, 1870.

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 21 June 1880;—for,

COPY "of a LETTER from the Right Honourable the First Lord of the Treasury to his Grace the Duke of Richmond and Gordon, relative to the Appointment of a Commission to inquire into the Working of the Irish Land Act, and of the Reply thereto."

Treasury Chambers,
21 June 1880. }

F. CAVENDISH.

LETTER from the Right Honourable the First Lord of the Treasury to his Grace the Duke of Richmond and Gordon.

10, Downing-street,
16 June 1880.

My dear Duke of Richmond,

It has been announced in the House of Commons this evening that we intend to advise the formation immediately of a small Commission to examine into the working of the Irish Land Act. Lord Elcho has given notice of a question for Thursday, which, as I heard it, seemed to touch the bearing of this intention on the position and operations of the Commission of which you are the head. But, independently of such a question, it would have been my duty to write to you on the subject and explain the grounds of the proceeding which we now contemplate.

The Government do not intend by this proceeding to signify any want of confidence in the capacity or the intentions of the Commission now at work. But the operations of that Commission extend over a field of extraordinary width, and embrace an immense variety of subjects. On the other hand, the circumstances of Ireland, in certain districts particularly, as they come almost daily into view, have convinced us that the case is one which requires the concentrated and undivided attention of persons who may be able, without distraction caused by other matters, at once to examine thoroughly, and exhibit to us clearly, the working of the Land Act, on which the well-being of the country and the confidence of the people in the law so materially depend.

I will not conceal from you that we think such a work can be accomplished not only most speedily, but best, by a body of gentlemen having this for their sole object. Still we are far from meditating any interference by the mere exercise of the prerogative with any of the duties which have been entrusted to you and your colleagues, and on which we have every reason to believe that you and they have laboured with all zeal and fidelity.

I remain, &c.
(signed) *W. E. Gladstone.*

LETTER from his Grace the Duke of Richmond and Gordon to the Right Honourable the First Lord of the Treasury.

49, Belgrave-square,
16 June 1880.

My dear Mr. Gladstone,

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your letter informing me that it is the intention of Her Majesty's Government to advise that a small Commission shall be formed immediately, to inquire into the working of the Irish Land Act.

I am much obliged to you for communicating to me the intentions of the Government.

I read your letter to my colleagues this morning before we proceeded to the business of the day.

Believe me, &c.
(signed) *Richmond and Gordon.*

IRISH LAND ACT, 1886.

COPY of a Letter from the Right Honour-
able the First Lord of the Treasury to his
Grace the Duke of Richmond and Gordon,
relative to the Appointment of a Commission to
Inquire into the Working of the Irish Land
Act, and of the Tenant Rights.

(Mr. W. E. Gladstone)

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